

RESOLUTION No. 30956

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A RESOLUTION regarding replacement of the Alaskan Way viaduct; requesting that the King County Director of Records and Elections call a special municipal election on March 13, 2007 to submit to the qualified electors of the City of Seattle an advisory measure concerning alternatives for replacing the Viaduct; requesting the Seattle City Attorney to draft a ballot title for this advisory measure and in doing so to consider the ballot title proposed in this resolution; authorizing and directing the Seattle City Clerk to take those actions necessary to place this advisory measure before Seattle City voters, including certification to the King County Director of Records and Elections of the text of an advisory ballot measure to be prepared by the City Attorney; and requesting the Executive Director of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission to take those actions necessary to place information concerning this advisory measure in the March 2007 voters' pamphlet.

Introduced:	By:
<u>1-19-07</u>	<u>Licata</u>
Referred:	To:
<u>1-19-07</u>	<u>Full Council</u>
Referred:	To:
Reported:	
Passed:	Signed:
Filed:	Published:
<u>2.21.07</u>	

US5171

1-19-07 Failed 2-7

(In favor: Della, Licata

Opposed: Clark, Conlin, Drago

Godden, McIver,

Rasmussen, Steinbusch)

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**RESOLUTION**

30956

A RESOLUTION regarding replacement of the Alaskan Way viaduct; requesting that the King County Director of Records and Elections call a special municipal election on March 13, 2007 to submit to the qualified electors of the City of Seattle an advisory measure concerning alternatives for replacing the Viaduct; requesting the Seattle City Attorney to draft a ballot title for this advisory measure and in doing so to consider the ballot title proposed in this resolution; authorizing and directing the Seattle City Clerk to take those actions necessary to place this advisory measure before Seattle City voters, including certification to the King County Director of Records and Elections of the text of an advisory ballot measure to be prepared by the City Attorney; and requesting the Executive Director of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission to take those actions necessary to place information concerning this advisory measure in the March 2007 voters' pamphlet.

WHEREAS, the Alaskan Way Viaduct (the "Viaduct") is a deteriorating structure that was significantly damaged in the Nisqually Earthquake of 2001; and

WHEREAS, the Viaduct is seismically at risk and engineers estimate it has a 1 in 20 chance of failure in an earthquake in the next ten years; and

WHEREAS, the nearby Seawall is also a deteriorating structure whose support timbers continue to be damaged by "gribbles" and other underwater marine borers; and

WHEREAS, because of their proximity, a failure of either the Viaduct or the Seawall is likely to cause failure of the other; and

WHEREAS, the Alaskan Way corridor carries more than 100,000 vehicle trips a day, or one quarter of the vehicle trips moving through the downtown Seattle area on highways with limited access; and

WHEREAS, continued deterioration or failure of the Viaduct and Seawall represent a threat to our region's public safety and economy; and

WHEREAS, decisions concerning replacement of the Viaduct and Seawall will impact the City for up to 100 years and will profoundly affect the region's transportation network; and

WHEREAS, for the continued mobility of people and freight, the replacement of the Viaduct and Seawall must preserve capacity for our region's transportation network; and

WHEREAS, the replacement must also preserve vital north-south connections for residents of West Seattle, Ballard and other communities; and



1 WHEREAS, in order to finance such a substantial investment, the replacement project must  
2 enjoy a wide base of community support to build a coalition for local, regional, state and  
3 federal financing; and

4 WHEREAS, since the 2001 earthquake, the City of Seattle together with the Washington State  
5 Department of Transportation ("WSDOT") and the Federal Highway Administration  
6 ("FHWA") (collectively "the partner agencies") have completed substantial engineering,  
7 planning, and environmental analysis, including preparation of a Draft Environmental  
8 Impact Statement ("DEIS") comparing five alternatives for replacement of the Viaduct  
9 and Seawall structures and a Supplemental DEIS further analyzing the impacts of an  
10 elevated or tunnel structure including impacts of closing the corridor during construction;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the public has been actively involved in the activities undertaken by the partner  
13 agencies, including participation in more than 200 public meetings, briefings and  
14 hearings; preparation and submittal of thousands of written and oral comments;  
15 participation in the City's Central Waterfront Planning process, and a public involvement  
16 process led by the City Council; and

17 WHEREAS, the Governor's Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Project Findings  
18 and Conclusions recommended that the City hold a public vote in early 2007 concerning  
19 the voters' preferred alternative for replacing the Viaduct, as a path to move forward in  
20 determining a preferred alternative;

21 NOW, THEREFORE,

22 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:**

23 Section 1. The King County Director of Records and Elections, as ex officio supervisor  
24 of elections, is hereby requested to call a special municipal election on March 13, 2007, in order  
25 to submit to the qualified electors of the City of Seattle an advisory ballot measure asking them  
26 to state their preference either for an elevated structure alternative or for a tunnel alternative to  
27 replace the present Alaskan Way Viaduct. This advisory measure shall be in the form of a ballot  
28 title to be prepared by the Seattle City Attorney.

Section 2. The City Attorney is hereby requested to prepare a ballot title for this measure.



1 Section 3. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to certify to the King County  
2 Director of Records and Elections the text of an advisory ballot measure, as prepared by the  
3 Seattle City Attorney.

4 Section 4. The City Clerk is authorized and directed to take any other actions necessary  
5 to place this advisory measure before the voters at the March 13, 2007 election.  
6

7 Section 5. The Executive Director of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission is  
8 requested to take those actions necessary to place information regarding this advisory ballot  
9 measure in the March 2007 voters' pamphlet.

10 Section 6. The Seattle City Council hereby requests that the City Attorney consider the  
11 following ballot title for this measure:  
12

13 Seattle Advisory Ballot Measure Number 1 concerns a preferred alternative for replacing the  
14 Alaskan Way Viaduct.

15 If you vote for the tunnel alternative, you are stating that you prefer that a tunnel be  
16 constructed to replace the present Alaskan Way Viaduct.  
17

18 If you vote for the elevated structure alternative, you are stating that you prefer that an  
19 elevated structure be constructed to replace the present Alaskan Way Viaduct.

20 The estimated cost for the tunnel alternative, as contained in the Governor's report of  
21 December 15, 2006, is \$4.63 billion. The estimated cost for the elevated structure alternative,  
22 contained in the same report, is \$2.82 billion. Current project costs are preliminary.  
23

24 If the Federal or State Governments do not provide revenue above the amount that is  
25 secured, additional local taxes, such as a property tax, may be required.  
26

- 27  
28 • I prefer the tunnel alternative...



- I prefer the elevated structure alternative...

Adopted by the City Council the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 2007, and signed by me in  
open session in authentication of its adoption this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 2007.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President \_\_\_\_ of the City Council

Filed by me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 2007.

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

(Seal)



**FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS**

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Contact Person/Phone:</b>	<b>DOF Analyst/Phone:</b>
Legislative	Scott MacColl 4-5382	

**Legislation Title:**

A RESOLUTION regarding replacement of the Alaskan Way viaduct; requesting that the King County Director of Records and Elections call a special municipal election on March 13, 2007 to submit to the qualified electors of the City of Seattle an advisory measure concerning alternatives for replacing the Viaduct; requesting the Seattle City Attorney to draft a ballot title for this advisory measure and in doing so to consider the ballot title proposed in this resolution; authorizing and directing the Seattle City Clerk to take those actions necessary to place this advisory measure before Seattle City voters, including certification to the King County Director of Records and Elections of the text of an advisory ballot measure to be prepared by the City Attorney; and requesting the Executive Director of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission to take those actions necessary to place information concerning this advisory measure in the March 2007 voters' pamphlet.

• **Summary of the Legislation:**

This Resolution places a ballot measure on the March 13, 2007 Special Election calendar asking voters to declare their preference between a tunnel or an elevated structure to replace the existing Alaskan Way Viaduct. The ballot choices include the total cost for each project and the amount of currently secured funding. In addition, the text includes a note to voters explaining that if sufficient funds cannot be found, taxes may need to be raised to fund the project.

- **Background:** *(Include brief description of the purpose and context of legislation and include record of previous legislation and funding history, if applicable):*

The Resolution is in response to a request by the Governor to put the question of which alternative to replace the Viaduct to the Seattle Voters. The Governor requested Seattle place this question before the voters prior to the end of the 2007 Legislative session, scheduled to end April 22, 2007.

- *Please check one of the following:*

\_\_\_\_\_ **This legislation does not have any financial implications.** *(Stop here and delete the remainder of this document prior to saving and printing.)*



**X** **This legislation has financial implications.** (Please complete all relevant sections that follow.)

**Appropriations:** This table should reflect appropriations that are a direct result of this legislation. In the event that the project/ programs associated with this ordinance have appropriations that were, or will be, received because of previous or future legislation or budget actions, please provide details in the Notes section below.

Fund Name and Number	Department	Budget Control Level*	2007 Appropriation	2008 Anticipated Appropriation
<b>TOTAL</b>				

\*See budget book to obtain the appropriate Budget Control Level for your department.

**Notes:** The City is responsible for the full cost of the special election, estimated at approximately \$1 million, as there are no other jurisdictions placing measures on the March ballot in King County. The appropriation for the cost of the election will come as a future ordinance. There is a bill pending in Olympia that would have the State cover the cost of the special election.

Additionally, depending on the outcome of the advisory ballot, there could be substantial future costs to the city.

**Anticipated Revenue/Reimbursement: Resulting From This Legislation:** This table should reflect revenues/reimbursements that are a direct result of this legislation. In the event that the issues/projects associated with this ordinance/resolution have revenues or reimbursements that were, or will be, received because of previous or future legislation or budget actions, please provide details in the Notes section below the table.

Fund Name and Number	Department	Revenue Source	2007 Revenue	2008 Revenue
<b>TOTAL</b>				

**Notes:**



**Total Regular Positions Created Or Abrogated Through This Legislation, Including FTE**

**Impact:** *This table should only reflect the actual number of positions created by this legislation. In the event that positions have been, or will be, created as a result of previous or future legislation or budget actions, please provide details in the Notes section below the table.*

Position Title and Department*	Fund Name	Fund Number	Part-Time/Full Time	2007 Positions	2007 FTE	2008 Positions**	2008 FTE**
<b>TOTAL</b>							

\* List each position separately

\*\* 2008 positions and FTE are total 2008 position changes resulting from this legislation, not incremental changes. Therefore, under 2008, please be sure to include any continuing positions from 2007.

**Notes:**

- **Do positions sunset in the future?** (If yes, identify sunset date):

**Spending/Cash Flow:** *This table should be completed only in those cases where part or all of the funds authorized by this legislation will be spent in a different year than when they were appropriated (e.g., as in the case of certain grants and capital projects). Details surrounding spending that will occur in future years should be provided in the Notes section below the table.*

Fund Name and Number	Department	Budget Control Level*	2007 Expenditures	2008 Anticipated Expenditures
<b>TOTAL</b>				

\* See budget book to obtain the appropriate Budget Control Level for your department.

- **What is the financial cost of not implementing the legislation?** (Estimate the costs to the City of not implementing the legislation, including estimated costs to maintain or expand an existing facility or the cost avoidance due to replacement of an existing facility, potential conflicts with regulatory requirements, or other potential costs if the legislation is not implemented.)

The Governor has stated that WSDOT will pursue the elevated option absent a city advisory ballot. The City has stated its policy to not support the elevated option. What





**future costs arise from that decision are as yet undetermined. Additionally, the city would not incur the cost of the special election.**

- **What are the possible alternatives to the legislation that could achieve the same or similar objectives?** *(Include any potential alternatives to the proposed legislation, such as reducing fee-supported activities, identifying outside funding sources for fee-supported activities, etc.)*
- **Is the legislation subject to public hearing requirements:** *(If yes, what public hearings have been held to date, and/or what plans are in place to hold a public hearing(s) in the future.)*

No

- **Other Issues** *(including long-term implications of the legislation):*

**Please list attachments to the fiscal note below:**

